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You may update your e-mail or newsletter mailing address online at alumni@rush.edu or by calling (312) 942-2569. Please also send your news to alumni@rush.edu or News & Views, c/o Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Nurses Alumni Association, Rush University Medical Center, 1700W Van Buren, Suite 250, Chicago, IL 60612

Newsletter of the
Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke’s
Nurses Alumni Association



RUSH UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER

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SPRING/SUMMER 2007

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RESEARCH AT THE COLLEGE OF NURSING
MAKING AN IMPACT

Nursing research at Rush University College of Nursing happens in complex laboratories — the patient bedside and the community. These settings offer a unique perspective to nursing scientists because they present real-life problems in need of real-life solutions. And, as the college looks to the future, the role of nursing research in finding those solutions is larger and more important than it has ever been.

DEBORAH GROSS, DNSC, RN, FAAN, (RUSH 1983)
Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship

Rush College of Nursing has built a program that deeply integrates research with education and practice. Rush faculty are increasingly involved in research that informs their ability to teach tomorrow’s nurses to meet the demands of a complex health care environment with intelligence and compassion. And while the classroom is critically impacted by faculty research, the end result is better care for our patients.

“ Our research is focused on improving the health of people, such as understanding factors that promote health or illness, symptom management, illness prevention, alleviation of suffering or improving the quality of care. Even as we move to the PhD in nursing as the research doctorate, our focus on clinically relevant phenomena will not change,” said Deborah Gross, DNSc, RN, FAAN (Rush 1983), associate dean for research and scholarship.

Gross has recently been appointed to a newly created position as associate dean to guide and advance research endeavors within the college. And, the emphasis on building a robust research endeavor seems to be working — research grant activity in the college is steadily increasing.

In fact, the college recently received the largest grant in its history from the National Institutes of Health. Led by principal investigator Gross, the grant will be used to study ways to increase participation in the Chicago Parent Program, a successful parenting skills program developed by college faculty for low-income urban families.

*Our research is focused on
improving the health of people*

CURRENT RESEARCH A number of other research projects are currently under way in the College of Nursing including a study led by Judith J. McCann, PhD, RN (Rush 1978 and 1991), to investigate why informal caregivers of Alzheimer’s disease patients don’t use community services; a clinical trial led by Carol Farran, DNSc, RN, FAAN (Rush 1983), to test the effectiveness of a lifestyle physical activity intervention with the family caregivers of Alzheimer’s patients; and a home-based telephone and telehealth clinical trial led by Ruth Kleinpell, PhD, RN, FAAN, ACNP, CCRN (Rush 1995), to monitor elderly cardiac patients at risk for postoperative complications.

It’s this kind of activity that helps Rush faculty train nurses to be problem solvers, patient advocates and social activists as much as clinical scholars and leaders. Research in the college enriches our students, but it also uses the perspective of a nurse to draw the most essential information from the patient bedside — how to improve and save lives.

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Message from Dean Melanie Dreher Marita Murray:
St. Luke’s alumna takes on new role Homecoming event
information College news: research, curriculum updates
Faculty appointments, faculty news and student news
College of Nursing ranking in U.S. News & World Report
Class notes In memoriam

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MESSAGE FROM DEAN MELANIE DREHER

CARE. CONNECT. CONTRIBUTE.

I hope you will enjoy reading our redesigned *News & Views* as much as we have enjoyed composing it. It has some wonderful fresh features, such as news about the college, alumni accomplishments and the valuable contributions of Rush graduates in today's complex health care environment. As you know, we consider our alumni our most valuable resource, and I am so pleased to offer you a publication that strengthens your connections not only to the College of Nursing but to each other.

As the third dean of this remarkable college, I am eager to build on the work of Dr. Christman and Dr. Andreoli and look forward to our next big "Rush challenge." As both educators and dinidians, the Rush University nursing community already has taken on the daunting task of looking for new and better ways to prepare nurses for a future we can only imagine, while at the same time, reinforcing the enduring values of leadership and excellence for which our graduates are known.

Our success in this important work will demand even greater focus on three key areas: research and clinical science, innovative educational programs, and the integration of practice and education. Everything we do as a college will be focused on these important goals, and I invite you to join us— as well as guide us— on this journey. *News & Views* will keep you up to date about our progress and innovation in nursing education, and I hope that we will hear from you as well. Your participation is essential for our collective success.

Best wishes,

Melanie F. Dreher

DEAN MELANIE DREHER COMMUNITY HEALTH BOOK ::

Released in 2006 was *Healthy Places, Healthy People: A Handbook for Culturally Competent Community Nursing Practice*, a book co-authored by the John L. and Helen Kellogg Dean of Nursing Melanie Dreher, PhD, RN. This book offers a new approach to public health nursing to effectively focus on the health of entire communities. The book can be purchased at www.amazon.com.

WHAT'S HAPPENING? Please send your news to alumni@rush.edu or *News & Views*, c/o Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Nurses Alumni Association, Rush University Medical Center, 1700 West Van Buren Street, Suite 250, Chicago, IL 60612.

ST. LUKE'S ALUMNA TAKES ON A NEW ROLE

Marita Murray, St. Luke's 1957, likes to say she's had two nursing careers— nearly a decade spent as head nurse on 2 Jones at Presbyterian-St. Luke's Hospital and 28 years in occupational health nursing for The Northern Trust Company. Likewise, she's played two roles for Rush College of Nursing: alumna and generous philanthropist.

Murray has made a substantial gift toward scholarships for Rush College of Nursing students. Her gift, which will be matched by The Northern Trust Company, will create the Marita D. Murray Nursing Scholarship Fund in the Rush College of Nursing. Murray's scholarship will help Rush's students overcome the rising cost of education in order to pursue their passion for nursing.

"I knew that I wanted to make a gift to Rush, and I considered making a bequest in my will, but I really wanted to see the benefits of my gift during my lifetime," Murray said. "I'd like to be able to correspond with the students my gift helps and to see the impact it has on their education."

Although Murray retired in 1994, she still utilizes her patient relation skills as a volunteer at Jupiter Medical Center in Jupiter, Fla. Everywhere her career has taken her, Murray says, she's carried with her a strong sense of pride for the education she received and the hope that Rush's students will continue to get a high-quality education, just as she did.

Marita Murray, St. Luke's 1957

"I'm very proud of my nursing degree. Once you're a nurse and associated with a school of Rush's caliber, how could you not be proud? And I want to see that tradition continued. That's why I made this gift and why I am helping to organize our class gift to the college's gerontological nursing program for our 50th reunion this year. It's nice to give something back."

COLLEGE NEWS

RESEARCH ::

HOME TELEHEALTH MONITORING OF ELDERLY CARDIAC PATIENTS is a randomized clinical trial of a home-based telephone and telehealth monitoring intervention for elderly cardiac patients at high risk for postoperative complications. Led by Ruth Kleinpell, PhD, RN, FAAN, ACNP, CCRN (Rush 1995); Ruth_M_Kleinpell@rush.edu.

ENGAGING LOW-INCOME PARENTS IN PREVENTION PROGRAMS is a randomized clinical trial of the cost-effectiveness of using child care discounts to encourage parent participation in parenting programs through their children's day care center. Led by Deborah Gross, DNSc, RN, FAAN (Rush 1983); Deborah_A_Gross@rush.edu.

A PRELIMINARY STUDY OF THE SAFETY AND EFFICACY OF POLICOSANOL FOR HIV is a clinical trial of policosanol, a sugar cane-derived dietary supplement used to normalize dyslipidemic profiles to manage HIV-related dyslipidemia. Led by Barbara Swanson, PhD, RN, ACRN (Rush 1991); Barbara_A_Swanson@rush.edu.

COMFORT AND EFFECTIVENESS OF NEW SUCTION PATTERNS FOR THE INITIATION AND MAINTENANCE OF LACTATION IN BREAST PUMP-DEPENDENT MOTHERS OF PREMATURE INFANTS is a randomized blinded trial to evaluate the comfort, efficacy, efficiency and convenience of different suction patterns with the Symphony breast pump for mothers with premature infants. Led by Janet Engstrom, PhD, RN, CNM; Janet_L_Engstrom@rush.edu.

MEXICAN-AMERICAN PROBLEM-SOLVING PROGRAM is a randomized clinical trial of a home-visiting and school-based health promotion intervention for Mexican immigrant mothers and their school-aged children. Led by Julia Cowell, PhD, RN, FAAN; Julia_Cowell@rush.edu.

WHY DON'T PEOPLE WITH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE USE MORE COMMUNITY SERVICES? This study investigates the reasons why informal caregivers of people with Alzheimer's disease from three racial groups (white, black and Hispanic) do not use more of the formal services available to them in order to close the gap between need and use of services. Led by Judith J. McCann, PhD, RN (Rush 1978 and 1991); Judy_McCann@rush.edu.

CLINICAL TRIAL TO ENHANCE CAREGIVER PHYSICAL ACTIVITY will test the effectiveness of a lifestyle physical activity intervention with family caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease. Led by Carol Farran, DNSc, RN, FAAN (Rush 1983); Carol_J_Farran@rush.edu.

EFFECT OF MINDFULNESS TRAINING ON NURSE AWARENESS AND AVOIDANCE OF ERRORS IN SIMULATED CLINICAL SCENARIOS is a study to evaluate the effect of mindfulness training on nurse error rates and patient safety. Led by Janice Zeller, PhD, RN, FAAN; Janice_M_Zeller@rush.edu.

CURRICULUM UPDATES ::

DNSC PROGRAM CHANGES TO PHD

Rush College of Nursing has received approval from Rush University's Board of Overseers to change the Doctorate of Nursing Science to the Doctor of Philosophy degree. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing suggests that the PhD credential is appropriate for the nursing research credential, while a nationwide decrease in the number of DNSc programs relative to PhD programs has also raised questions about the viability of the DNSc degree. Moving to this degree will strengthen the identity of the College of Nursing's research doctoral program and assure that the Rush degree meets standard academic protocol across the profession.

Current students in the program will have the option of receiving the DNSc or the PhD upon graduation. Prior graduates of the DNSc program will have the choice to replace their DNSc credential with the PhD, effective January 31, 2007. Graduates' transcripts will indicate that the DNSc degree was received. In addition, the Office of the Registrar will add a statement indicating that the DNSc degree is recognized as being equivalent to the PhD degree. Graduates may request a copy of their transcripts at no charge with the updated notation by going to this Web link: <http://www.rushu.rush.edu/pdf/files/transrequest.pdf>



LISA ROSENBERG, PHD, RN,
Associate Dean for
Academic Affairs

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

Deborah Gross, DNSc, RN, FAAN (Rush 1983), has been named the associate dean for research and scholarship. In her new position, Gross will be responsible for guiding and advancing the research endeavors of the College of Nursing faculty.

Lisa Rosenberg, PhD, RN, has been named the associate dean for academic affairs. In her new position, Rosenberg will draw on her wealth of experience and knowledge to ensure that the College of Nursing adapts to the rapid changes in the health care field and fully prepares our students for the increasingly complex demands of the nursing profession.

Frank Hicks, PhD, RN, has been named the director of generalist education.

Suzanne Perraud, PhD, RN (Rush 1984), has been named the director of specialist education in nursing.

Carol Farran, DNSc, RN, FAAN (Rush 1983), has been named director of the nursing PhD program.

FACULTY & STUDENT NEWS

FACULTY NEWS

- **Margaret Faut-Callahan, CRNA, PhD, FAAN** (Pres-St. Luke's 1976 and Rush 1979 and 1984), received the SAGE Award at the Ninth Annual Power of Nursing Leadership Event. The SAGE Award recognizes nurses who mentor and support leadership of today while always looking for ways to mentor the nurse leaders of tomorrow. Fellow Rush alumna **Kathryn Christiansen, BSN, MA, DNSc, FAAN** (Rush 1981), received the Illinois Nurse Leader Award at the event. Christiansen is regional director for patient care at Rush Oak Park Hospital.
- The John A. Hartford Foundation Institute for Geriatric Nursing at New York University has selected Assistant Professor of Nursing **Olimpia Paun, PhD, MS, RN**, to be a 2006 Geriatric Research Scholar.

STUDENT NEWS

The College of Nursing Convocation Committee announced its award recipients at the Winter Convocation on January 5, 2007:

- **Jennifer Grace Schwarz** was awarded the Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Nurses Alumni Association Award, which recognizes an outstanding prelicensure student.
- **Kathryn Jo Clay** and **Brianna Lynn Walsh** were awarded the Dorothy and Luther Christman Endowed Scholarship Award, which recognizes students moving directly into post-baccalaureate studies who have demonstrated outstanding academic and clinical performance leadership.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING RANKS HIGH IN U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

Rush University's College of Nursing is well represented in the 2008 edition of "America's Best Graduate Schools" survey published by *U.S. News & World Report* magazine. Eight programs in the Rush College of Nursing are ranked among the top 20 in the country.

"I am very proud of our faculty and graduates who bring distinction to this program every day. We consider such national scores the natural outcome of our mission to prepare the next generation of nursing leaders," said College of Nursing Dean **Melanie C. Dreher, PhD, RN, FAAN**.

Rush College of Nursing is ranked third in the nation for its Master's in Nursing Anesthesia program and 19th for its Master's in Nursing program. The college also received very high marks for nursing specialties: sixth in Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing, ninth in Adult Nurse Practitioner, tenth in Family Nurse Practitioner, ninth in Gerontological/Geriatric Nursing and seventh in Pediatric Nursing.

The rankings in *U.S. News & World Report* are based on the results of peer assessment surveys sent to deans, other administrators and/or faculty at accredited degree programs in each discipline.

RUSH-PRESBYTERIAN-ST. LUKE'S NURSES HOMECOMING OCTOBER 12, 2007

Rush celebrates alumni who graduated in a year ending with a two or a seven.

Homecoming will be held this year on October 12, 2007.

All alumni are welcome to attend as Rush celebrates those who graduated in a year ending with a two or a seven. Daytime activities and the celebratory banquet will be held this year on the Rush University Medical Center campus.

If you would like to make hotel reservations for Homecoming, special rates are available at the Chicago Marriott in the Illinois Medical District (located just across the street from our campus at Ashland and Harrison). You can visit their Web site at

www.marriott.com/property/propertypage.CHIDM. To reserve a room, call (800) 356-3641 and mention Rush Nurses Homecoming 2007. The nightly rate is \$159 if you make your reservation before September 11, 2007.

An invitation will be mailed prior to the event. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Joyce Walsh at (312) 942-6894 or by e-mail at Joyce_A_Walsh@rush.edu.

We hope to see you there!



DEAN EMERITUS
LUTHER CHRISTMAN BOOK

*Luther Christman:
A Maverick Nurse —
A Nursing Legend*

A book about Rush College of Nursing
Dean Emeritus Luther Christman,
by Elizabeth Pittman, went on
sale this last summer.

The book can be purchased at
www.amazon.com.

CLASS NOTES

In addition to the news printed here, you can find even more news from even more classmates on the internet at www.rush.edu/NursingAlum under "Alumni News."

ST. LUKE'S ::

TWYLLA MAE KNAKE, 1945, wrote, "I am still enjoying life by the Deschutes River in Bend, Ore. I continue to be grateful for my nursing education."

ARLYSS DANIELSON WATERS, 1947A, of Ewen, Mich., wrote, "It made me very happy to see our St. Luke's School of Nursing banner when our daughter, LINNEA MAUREEN WATERS, BSN 2006, received her diploma last June." Linnea is a staff nurse at Rush on 9 South A trium.

PRESBYTERIAN ::

Following her graduation from Presbyterian, **DOROTHY NELSON KEIFER, 1941**, of Portland, Ore., served in the Navy Cadet Corps for four years.

PATRICIA SYVERSON HATZ, 1957A, of Elmhurst, Ill., is a school nurse at York High School in Elmhurst. She and **SHIRLEY ANDERSON EGGERS** look forward to seeing all of their dassmates at Homecoming 2007.

PRESBYTERIAN-ST. LUKE'S ::

RONALD INSKEEP, 1967, of White Plains, N.Y., retired in 2001 at the age of 65. He volunteers at New York Presbyterian Hospital-Westchester Division, where he worked for more than 33 years

RUSH ::

MARCA BRISTO, BS 1976, NAA Distinguished Alumna 1995, was featured in a Dec. 14, 2006, *Chicago Tribune* article for her work negotiating a recently adopted United Nations convention protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities.

In January, Illinois Governor Rod R. Blagojevich honored **MARGARET DAVIS, BS 1976, MS 1978**, with the People Are Today's Heroes Award for her work as a registered nurse and health advocate. Davis is executive director of the Healthcare Consortium of Illinois, a nonprofit, community-based, health and human-service organization that works to improve and enhance the quality of life in Illinois.

GARY L. C. RESCHAK, BS 1979, of Palatine, Ill., passed the exam for Certif ed Nephrology Nurse last year. Reschak works at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago in the inpatient dialysis unit. He remains active in the American Nurses and Illinois Nurses Associations as a board member and in the Windy City chapter of the American Nephrology Nurses Association.

DIANE RODRIGUEZ, BS 1983, of Downers Grove, Ill., was honored with a 2006 *Nursing Spectrum* Excellence Award for being an exceptional mentor. Rodriguez is executive director for patient care support at Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights, Ill.

DIANN MARTIN, MS 1986, DNSc 1990, is the dean of nursing and health care for Kaplan University, an online school of nursing and health care. She reported that the school has 400 BSN completion students and plans to launch an ADN program and an MSN program this year.

ANITA TARZIAN, BS 1986, was quoted in the March 2007 *Prevention* magazine article, "4 Risky Habits— And the Moves That Could Save Your Life." *Prevention* cited Tarzian as an authority on effective ways for women to communicate with their doctors. She is an ethics and research consultant in the Law & Health Care Program of the University of Maryland Law School.

JEFF CURL, BS 1993, of Upton, Mass., recorded a commentary for the program "All Things Considered" on National Public Radio in December. Curl's commentary ref ected on one of the cancer patients whom he treated. The recording can still be found on NPR's Web site, www.NPR.org, by typing his name into the search function.

In 1994, **KELLY SCHLENK SULLENS, BS 1993**, of Haslet, Texas, married her high school sweetheart, LtCDR Matthew J. Sullens, and they have three sons. Sullens is part of the oncology team at Baylor Medical Center in Fort Worth, Texas. Her husband has retired from his work f ying an FA 18 with the United States Navy and is a pilot for Southwest Airlines. Sullens would love to hear from former Rush classmates.

Three Rush alumni and current graduate students represented Rush University College of Nursing at the 2007 MNRS Student Poster Exchange and Competition in March. **SUSAN M. BREITENSTEIN, BS 1994, MS 1997**, presented her research, "Parent and Teacher

Attributional Assessments of Preschool Children's Misbehavior;" **NANCY RODRIGUEZ, MS 1997**, presented "Oropharyngeal Administration of Own Mother's Colostrum During the First Days of Life: Effects of Immune Function of Extremely Low Birth Weight (ELBW; BW<1000g) Infants" and **BRIDGET JOHNSON, BSN 2006**, presented "Self-Injurious Behavior on an Adolescent Inpatient Psychiatric Unit."

SUSAN BAUER-WU, DNSc 1997, of Brookline, Mass., has accepted an associate professor position in the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory University beginning this June.

THOM BLOOMQUIST, MSN 2001, of Bow, N.H., was featured in the August 2006 issue of *Men in Nursing* journal. The article, "Get Prof dent at Sedation and Regulation," highlighted advice and information for nurse anesthetists. Bloomquist is the owner of Advanced Anesthesia and Pain Management Services and the chair of the New Hampshire Board of Nursing.

JENNIFER GRACE SCHWARZ, BSN 2006, received the NAA Award at January's Rush College of Nursing mid-year convocation ceremony, at which she spoke. A nursing service scholar, Schwarz began working in the Rush O.R. in February. In Rush's Nursing Service Scholarship Program, students receive full-tuition scholarships from the Medical Center. In return, upon graduation, they carry out a clinical service commitment at Rush.



IN MEMORIAM

ST. LUKE'S

AGNES ARNOLD GORDON, 1929, of St. Charles, Ill.; April 17, 2006

MIRIAM H. SEMMER, 1936, of Lincolnshire, Ill.; Oct. 18, 2006

JUNE KELM WEBB, 1941, of Northbrook, Ill.; Nov. 18, 2006

MARGARET MILLER DOBINSKY, 1944, of Chicago; Jan. 9, 2007

LUCILLE B. OLDENBURG, 1946, of Mfonk, Ill.; Nov. 8, 2006

PEARL BARMICK BALDE, 1949, of Racine, Wis.; March 23, 2005

LOUISE CURTIS SWALLOW, 1950, of Cherokee Village, Ark.; June 3, 2006

LILA LEE POTTER MOELLER, 1953B, of Overland Park, Kansas; Nov. 29, 2006

SONYA MARSH SCHNURR, 1957, of Montrose, Colo.; Dec. 26, 2004

PRESBYTERIAN

THELMA MERILLAT WESTERMAN, 1931, of Oak Park, Ill.; Aug. 11, 2006

MARION GIDDINGS FIELDS, 1932, of Arlington Heights, Ill.; Dec. 2006

MARY BLANCHE ALLFREE, 1941, of Oceanside, Calif.; Sept. 9, 2005

ARLINE CREEGER ANDERS, 1941, of Tampa, Fla.; Nov. 27, 2005

BETTY HOLMGREN NICKEL, 1941, of Nokomis, Fla.; Jan. 19, 2006

MARY WARD EMLY, 1942, of Des Moines, Iowa; Oct. 1, 2006

ANN GRIER HERBST, 1942, of Marco Island, Fla.; March 31, 2005

SHIRLEY BOUGHTON THOMPSON, 1943, of Macon, N.C.; May 29, 2006

EUNICE ZAHRTIE WEGMAN, 1946, of Grayslake, Ill.; July 23, 2006

NORMA J. NELSON FLISS, 1947, of Bella Vista, Ark.; Sept. 3, 2006

GRACE MAPLEDEN LOHSE, 1947, of Plainville, Mich.; March 16, 2006

MARION FERBER GAULT, 1948, of Northbrook, Ill.; Sept. 11, 2006

ELAINE ATKINSON VAN GORDER, 1948, of Tucson, Ariz.; Sept. 25, 2006

MARGARET A. VASEK WAKEMAN, 1950, of Pindkney, Mich.; Nov. 6, 2006

ANNE DE HOEK DELANO, 1957, of Kentwood, Mich.; June 4, 2006

RUSH

PATRICIA SMITH-TODT, MS 1980, of Deland, Fla.; Sept. 16, 2006

ELISA IRLANDI PIAZZA, BS 1983, of Naperville, Ill.; Oct. 14, 2006

JOANNE ZELTEN, BS 1988, of Maywood, Ill.; Dec. 25, 2006

TODD STECKBAR, BS 1990, MS 1994, of Village of Lakewood, Ill.; July 17, 2006

CYNTHIA SMITH BRODELL, BS 1992, of Northbrook, Ill.; June 17, 2006

SUPPORT THE RUSH-PRESBYTERIAN-ST. LUKE'S NURSES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ::

Your support of the Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Nurses Alumni Association is essential to the preservation of the tradition of nursing excellence at Rush and to the education of the nurses of tomorrow. Every gift has a significant impact on the future of students of the Rush University College of Nursing.

Whether through an outright gift of cash or securities, a gift annuity or including the college in your will, you can leave a legacy during your lifetime and provide a secure future for the college.

For information on ways to make a gift to Rush, please contact Genet Soule, associate director of Alumni Relations, at genet_soule@rush.edu or (312) 942-7199.

UPCOMING EVENTS – SAVE THE DATE

WINTER CONVOCATION
January 11, 2008
Searle Conference Center

ANCHOR CROSS SOCIETY DINNER
May 15, 2008
The Peninsula Hotel

GOLDEN LAMP SOCIETY LUNCHEON
June 12, 2008
Searle Conference Center, Room 500

JUNE CONVOCATION
June 13, 2008
Searle Conference Center

HOMECOMING
October 17, 2008
Searle Conference Center

You may update your e-mail or newsletter mailing address online at alumni@rush.edu or by calling (312) 942-2569. Please also send your news to alumni@rush.edu or News & Views, c/o Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Nurses Alumni Association, Rush University Medical Center, 1700 W. Van Buren, Suite 250, Chicago, IL 60612.

news

FALL/WINTER 2007

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views

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| IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT Karen Van Dyke Lamb, DNP, APRN, BC (Pres.-St. Luke’s 1967 and Rush 1982 and 1991) | ARCHIVIST Martha Mills, MS, RN (Pres.-St. Luke’s 1965) | Nancy Hayda Mills, DNSc (Pres-St. Luke’s 1965 and Rush 2003) Dagmara R. Veinbergs Nyman (St. Luke’s 1956) |
| VICE PRESIDENT Mary Severino Meyer, MSN (Rush 1994) | MEMBERS AT LARGE Mary Ellen Eich Buell (Presbyterian 1946) Gia Crisanti, MSN (Rush 1983 and 2001) | Angelique Richard, PhD, RN (Rush 1985 and 1988) Michelle Riley, DNP, RN (Rush 2003) |

Newsletter of the
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news

FALL/WINTER 2007

&

views

NEW GEM PROGRAM WILL REVOLUTIONIZE POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION AT RUSH



FRANK HICKS, PHD, RN
Director of Generalist Education

While similar to the bachelor’s program in that it prepares graduates for generalist practice, the GEM will include the comprehensive clinical leadership content that isn’t included in the current bachelor’s program, and it’s designed for students with a non-nursing baccalaureate degree or higher. Graduates of the program will be conferred a master’s

We want to teach our students to lead at the point of care by bringing more education and skill right to the bedside.

degree and will be eligible to sit for RN licensure and Clinical Nurse Leader certification.

Improving quality and safety in the health care environment is a contemporary challenge and a mission of the entire spectrum of caregivers. In fact, the Institute of Medicine series on quality in health care has mandated the incorporation of five areas of knowledge for all health professions to improve quality and safety: (1) patient-centered care, (2) evidence-based practice, (3) information technology, (4) quality improvement, and (5) inter-professional communication. When combined with the complex clinical knowledge required by professional nurses today, it begs the question: Has the education required for professional practice finally outstripped the Bachelor of Science in Nursing?

Rush University College of Nursing faculty, along with nursing educators around the country, considered that question and, as a result, believes that the traditional approach to educating nurses must be reconsidered. After considerable discussion, College of Nursing faculty members made the decision to transition entirely to postgraduate nursing education. Beginning in June 2008, the College of Nursing will welcome the first cohort of students into the Generalist Entry Master’s in Nursing (GEM).

“We’re looking toward the future, and this kind of education is really gaining momentum,” said Frank Hicks, PhD, RN, director of generalist education. “We’re looking at what society needs and how we can best serve society — we think we can do that by offering a program that educates nurses to be clinical leaders. We want to teach our students to lead at the point of care by bringing more education and skill right to the bedside.”

“While this is a big change for the college, we have always been and still are committed to providing an excellent nursing education,” Hicks said. “More specifically, we remain focused on clinical excellence. In fact, our GEM program includes 1,210 clinical hours — which is more than the current accelerated BSN program. We must take this step to provide the education we think nurses need to have to be prepared for the future, and we’re contributing to changing the architecture of the health care system to fit that growing need.”

The changes are already under way in the college — the last seven-quarter program class was enrolled in fall 2007. The final four-quarter accelerated BSN program will enroll in winter 2008, after which Rush will only offer the GEM program.

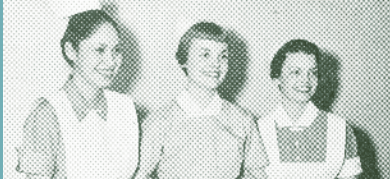
If you’d like more information on this innovative approach to nursing education, please visit our Web site at www.rushu.rush.edu/nursing. Questions may also be directed to Frank Hicks, PhD, RN, director of generalist education, at (312) 942-5587 or Genet Soule, associate director of development and alumni relations, at (312) 942-7199.

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MESSAGE FROM DEAN MELANIE DREHER

WE CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW . . .

Recently, the faculty of Rush University College of Nursing voted overwhelmingly to endorse the vision statement that will guide the future endeavors of the college.

In five years, the College of Nursing will be:

- The college of choice for client-centered and evidence-based nursing practice;
- A renowned laboratory for curriculum innovation and educational transformation in nursing; and
- An international center for clinical science and translational research in nursing.

This vision statement was derived from the deliberations of our entire faculty and staff and is consistent with the faculty resolution to shift our pre-licensure programs in the college from a bachelor's degree to a master's degree in nursing. While many would argue that this is a bold — perhaps revolutionary — step in nursing education, many would argue that the declining quality of care and mounting public dissatisfaction in this country calls for bold measures. What we have done so well in the past simply is not sufficient to meet contemporary challenges, not to mention those of the future.

The movement to pre-licensure master's education is not an abandonment of the bachelor's degree — it is a celebration of it. As a diploma graduate, who, guided by wise teachers, immediately went on for a bachelor's degree; and then, guided by wise teachers, immediately went on for a doctoral degree; and then, guided by wise teachers, went on for a post-doctoral fellowship, etc., I have to believe that those pioneer, undaunted nursing visionaries who committed themselves to establishing bachelor's programs in colleges and universities across the country, would be very pleased by what we have done at Rush.

Best wishes.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE RUSH-PRESBYTERIAN-ST. LUKE'S NURSES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

This year, the Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Nurses Alumni Association awarded \$61,660 in student aid — three times more than last year. Thank you to all of our generous alumni!

Your support of the Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Nurses Alumni Association is essential to the preservation of the tradition of nursing excellence at Rush and to the education of the nurses of tomorrow. Every gift has a significant impact on the future of Rush University College of Nursing students.

For information on ways to make a gift to Rush, please contact Genet Soule, associate director of Alumni Relations, at genet_soule@rush.edu or (312) 942-7199.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA'S CAREER EXEMPLIFIES RUSH NURSING VALUES

As director of nursing research and education at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, Pa., Andrea Barsevick, PhD, RN, AOCN (Rush 1975 and 1984), works to create more effective management of treatment-related symptoms — including fatigue and sleep disturbances — that negatively impact cancer patients' quality of life. Her highly successful career and dedication to patient care made her a logical choice for this year's distinguished alumna. After all, the methodology behind her success came from Rush.

"From Rush and from [first dean of Rush College of Nursing] Luther Christman I learned that clinical practice has to inform your research and teaching," Barsevick said. "I learned to never forget my clinical roots and always make sure clinical endeavors are evidence-based."

Barsevick has since become a leader in the development of evidence-based clinical nursing interventions. She has been the principal or co-investigator on numerous grants from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense and the American Cancer Society, and has served on numerous research and advisory committees in the Oncology Nursing Society. During this year's Homecoming activities, Barsevick gave her distinguished alumna lecture on "Understanding Symptom Clusters Related to the Cancer Experience."

"Until recently, we've always looked at symptoms like pain, fatigue and sleep disturbances as separate entities and treated them separately," she said. "Understanding how symptoms interact and influence each other and how treatment for one might impact another will really sharpen our clinical interventions."

Barsevick has been with Fox Chase Cancer Center, one of the world's foremost cancer centers, since 1991. Prior to that, she taught at University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing and Rush University College of Nursing.



ANDREA BARSEVICK, RUSH 1975 AND 1984

"Luther Christman always told us about working with doctors: 'You'll never have equity until you have parity.' He firmly believed nurses needed to earn their doctoral degrees in order to collaborate toe-to-toe with physicians. That very wise advice has made all the difference for me. To be able to approach doctors of medicine as a doctor of nursing and have an equal playing field is a wonderful thing."



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY
& MENTAL HEALTH

The Department of Community and Mental Health strives to meet the holistic health needs of a diverse society through high-quality programs and leadership in nursing education, research and practice — and it’s been recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the best programs of its kind in the nation.

Ranked at number five, the department comprises the Family Nurse Practitioner and Community/Public Health Nursing programs as well as the first all-online master’s program in the college, the Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing degree.

Focused on research and practice, the department also has contracts with 14 community health agencies where faculty deliver comprehensive health care to underserved populations. For more information on the department’s activities, please visit the college’s Web site at www.rushu.rush.edu.

CLASS NOTES

In addition to the news printed here, you can find even more news from even more classmates on the internet at www.rush.edu/NursingAlum under “Alumni News.”

ST. LUKE’S ::

ANNA GENTRY LENDRUM, 1942A, of Warner Robbins, Ga., wrote in with fond memories of St. Luke’s Hospital School of Nursing Director Madeleine McConnell. Unfortunately, Lendrum was unable to return for her 65th reunion this year but sends her best wishes to all.

MARIAN (“DEDE”) WAINFORD CONKLIN, 1953A, and her husband, Bill, hosted a mini-reunion with six of her classmates at their Grand Junction, Colo., home in September. **BARBARA W. CLEMENTS, MARGUERITE (“PEG”) LAYDEN DENTON, NANCY STARK ELLIOTT, MAY OMURA KIMURA, ILA HONHOLT RAVEN and CORRINNE (“CORKY”) RENTSCHLER** attended.

PRESBYTERIAN ::

IONE FRYE MOROSIN, 1947, competed in the Houston Senior Olympics last March and won seven gold medals in swimming for the 80 to 84 age bracket. Morosin was the only woman competing in her age bracket. This is her 18th year participating, and she also won seven gold medals in 2006. Thanks to **MARY ANNE KIRKPATRICK OGILVIE, PRESBYTERIAN 1948**, for passing along this news.

PRESBYTERIAN-ST. LUKE’S ::

HELEN FRAN HALL FERRILL, 1968, of Clinton, Ill., is now the proud grandmother of quintuplets. The three boys and two girls, none of whom are identical, were born Dec. 21, 2006, to Ferrill’s son Pete and daughter-in-law Jenny. Now known as the “Ferrill Five,” the babies and their parents have been featured on TLC’s “Quint-Essential” program and have their own Web site, www.Ferrillfive.com. Ferrill writes that the babies and their parents are doing well.

MARGARET FAUT-CALLAHAN, PSL Cert. 1976 and Rush MS 1979 and PhD 1984, has driven an expansion of palliative care services at Rush University Medical Center, where she is chair of adult health nursing in the College of Nursing. Fellow alumni and Rush faculty **SUSAN L. BREAKWELL, Rush ND 2004**, and **BETH NACHTSHEIM BOLICK, Rush MS and Cert. 1995**, have also been instrumental in implementing new palliative care services at Rush.

RUSH ::

LOUISE NORA, MS 1975, of Chicago, recently received the Florence Nightingale Award from St. Joseph Hospital, where she is a nurse practitioner.

ANN BINES, MS 1982, of Chicago, is nurse manager of the brain injury unit at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. An article about the institute’s work rehabilitating American soldiers who have sustained traumatic brain injuries was featured in the August 13, 2007, issue of Nursing Spectrum.

MAUREEN GURNICK SHEKLETON, DNSc 1982, of Glen Ellyn, Ill., is a public relations specialist with the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. She is responsible for assessing, developing, coordinating and monitoring both internal and external professional relationships that advance the association’s mission.

ANGELIQUE RICHARD, BS 1985, MS 1988, of Chicago, was recognized for her outstanding leadership at St. Francis Hospital, where she is vice president of patient care services, in the May 2007 issue of Chicago Hospital News.

YANN-FEN CHAO, DNSc 1991, of Taipei City, Taiwan, is professor and dean of the College of Nursing at Taipei Medical University. Chao recently became a Golden Lamp Society member with a gift to Rush College of Nursing, making her the GLS member who lives the farthest from Chicago.

MARIA CONNOLLY, DNSc 1992, of Oak Forest, Ill., is dean of the University of St. Francis College of Nursing and Allied Health. She works with **CATHERINE FERRARIO, MS 1982, DNSc 2001, FLORIDA FREEMAN, DNSc 2002, JENNIFER BETH LEE VILLEGAS, BSN 1996, and TERRI REYES, MSN 2001**, college of nursing faculty, and **MARY MARAGOS, MS 1985**, director of the University of St. Francis Health and Wellness Center. The University of St. Francis was recently awarded the largest federal grant in its history, \$2.1 million from the Health Resources and Services Administration, to open the center, which will primarily serve school children, senior citizens and domestic violence victims.

MARGARET FITZPATRICK, BS 1996, of Elmhurst, Ill., wrote an essay, “A Boy Named Mark,” that appeared in Nursing Spectrum on May 4, 2007. She is a school nurse at Morgan Park Academy in Chicago and works part-time at Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn, Ill. She is also pursuing a master’s degree at Rush and has co-authored the book, *What to Ask the Doc: The Questions to Ask to Get the Answers You Need*.

LORI ANDERSON, MS 1997, of Rockford, Ill., has worked as an RN in emergency, critical care and flight nursing and served in a management capacity for 15 years. She is the chief CRNA for Rockford Anesthesiologists Associated. She is on the Board of Directors and Long-Term Strategic Planning Committee for the Illinois Association of Nurse Anesthetists, a member of the Illinois Nurses Association, and the CRNA representative on the Illinois Society for Advanced Practice Nursing.

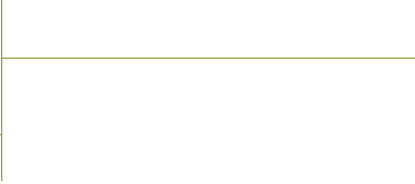
SUSAN BAUER-WU, DNSc 1997, has been named a Georgia Cancer Coalition Distinguished Scholar. She is an associate professor at Emory University’s Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, where her work centers on managing the distress associated with cancer treatment and syndromes. The GCC honor includes between \$50,000 and \$150,000 in annual funding for five years to support her cancer research.

JILL STEINER SANKO, BS 1997, of Clarksburg, Md., works for the National Institutes of Health, where she is the associate director of their simulation service and runs the cardiac imaging service.

RITA CANFIELD, DNSc 2002, of St. Louis, Mo., wrote in May for National Nurses’ Week to honor some Rush faculty members who have impacted her and countless other nursing alumni. She honored Judith McCann, PhD (Rush 1978 and 1991); Janice Zeller, PhD, FAAN; Lynne Braun, PhD (Rush 1980 and 1997); and Joyce Keithley, DNSc, FAAN (Rush 1980), writing, “With much patience, persistence and long suffering, they helped me to understand what nursing can be.”

ERIK MCINTOSH, BSN 2004, of Chicago, has been inducted into the Gamma Phi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau. He works as a staff nurse on a general medicine floor. He plans to earn an advance practice degree as a clinical nurse specialist in medical/surgical nursing.

PAMELA LINDSEY, DNSc 2006, of Danvers, Ill., is director of the undergraduate program at Illinois State University’s Mennonite College of Nursing. She has been awarded a Claire M. Fagin Fellowship by the Building Academic Geriatric Nurse Capacity program, which is administered by the American Academy of Nursing and the John A. Hartford Foundation. Her research under the fellowship will focus on the use of psychiatric medication in older adults with mental health issues. She will collaborate with Kathleen Buckwalter, a professor of geriatric mental health nursing at the University of Iowa College of Nursing.



WRENTHA A. JULION, PHD, MPH, RN

\$1 MILLION GIFT TO SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS ::

Dean L. and Rosemarie Buntrock, longtime supporters of Rush University Medical Center, recently gave \$1 million to the College of Nursing to create an endowed scholarship. Dean Buntrock is the co-founder and former chairman and CEO of Waste Management, Inc., a leading provider of comprehensive waste and environmental services in North America. He and his wife Rosemarie live in Hinsdale, Illinois.

COLLEGE NEWS

RESEARCH ::

For 2007, the CON received funding totaling \$1,902,025 for a wide range of multidisciplinary translational studies aimed at preventing and treating health problems at the bedside and in the community. Overall, the college has received more than \$6 million in new NIH funding from July 2006 to June 2007.

WRENETHA A. JULION, PHD, MPH, RN (RUSH 2002), has been awarded funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) for her project entitled “The Promise of Church-Partnered Interventions for Promoting Paternal Involvement in African-American Non-Resident Fathers.” The purpose of this one-year study is to conduct secondary analysis of data from the Fragile Families and Child Well-Being Study that will inform church-based interventions to promote paternal involvement in African-American non-resident fathers. This award is being made under the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s New Connections Initiative: Bringing Diversity to RWJF Grantmaking and Increasing Secondary Data Analyses.

PAULA MEIER, JAN ENGSTROM, ALOKA PATEL, HAROLD BIGGER, LOU FOGG, TRICIA JOHNSON, BRIANA JEGIER, JUDY MOTYKOSWKI, JAMECA BENJAMIN AND FABIOLA LOERA have received funding for their NIH grant, “Health Benefits and Cost of Human Milk Feedings for Very Low Birthweight Infants.” This five-year grant is funded by the National Institute for Nursing Research for \$2.76 million. Pilot work for this award was funded by private and industry grants including multi-year funding from Medela, Separation Technology and the Illinois Children’s Healthcare Foundation.

BARBARA SWANSON, PHD, RN, ACRN, is co-investigator with ALI KESHAVARZIAN, MD, on an exploratory study aimed at determining whether one year’s practice of mindfulness meditation by patients with moderately severe ulcerative colitis, but who are in remission, is effective in preventing inflammation, oxidative tissue injury and flare up. The Center for Complementary/Alternative Medicine awarded funding to Keshavarzian for his three-year study entitled, “The Mindfulness, Stress and IBD Flare-Up.”

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

JOELLEN WILBUR, PHD, APN, FAAN, joined the faculty of the College of Nursing where she was appointed to the Independence Chair in Nursing Education. The Independence Chair was established to encourage nursing programs to engage in long-range planning and develop support programs that would ensure the future of nursing education. Wilbur comes to Rush from the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing, where she was a professor of nursing and the associate dean for research.

JANET L. ENGSTROM, PHD, has been appointed Chair of Women’s and Children’s Health Nursing, a position she has held as an acting chairperson since 2006.

FACULTY & STUDENT NEWS

FACULTY NEWS

BARBARA J. MARTIN, PHD, RN (MS 1984), director of nursing for gerontology and psychiatry, was named “Manager of the Year” at Founder’s Day, Rush’s annual employee recognition event. Martin was chosen because of her commitment to excellence by improving her skills and assuming greater levels of responsibility throughout her 34-year career at Rush.

STUDENT NEWS

A Rush College of Nursing student has been selected as a 2007-2008 Chicago area Schweitzer fellow. Honoring the legacy of Nobel Laureate Dr. Albert Schweitzer, each of the students selected designs and directs an innovative project to improve health and access to health care for medically underserved people. TANYA MELICH-MUNYAN will work with the Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind Child Development Center to implement a wellness policy. This project will include improving nutrition and increasing physical activity, both at school and at home, creating dental and psychological care referral networks, and designing culturally appropriate educational materials to increase health literacy.



IN MEMORIAM

ST. LUKE’S

ANGELA SPOLAR HENNESSY, 1933, of Pebble Beach, Calif.; Feb. 4, 2006

ELSIE NIELSEN GOODWIN, 1937, of Laconia, N.H.; July 31, 2007

BERNICE SLAPNICAR MICHAELS, 1941, of Oklahoma City, Okla.; Jan 29, 2007

NANCY LEE KUNATH NELSON, 1947A, of Westmont, Ill.; Jan. 2007

HELEN HUFF, 1953, of Sun City, Ariz.; December 2006

NANCYANN LAMB KISIELIUS, 1953A, of Chicago; Feb. 13, 2005

LOIS CLARKE PHELPS, 1954, of McKinney, Texas; March 18, 2007

WYNETA THOREN MAZZUCA, 1956, of Simi Valley, Calif.; May 16, 2007

PRESBYTERIAN

LOLA GORDON GRAY HICKEY, 1931, of Middleton, Wis.; Sept. 29, 2005

HILA RICHARDS STRATTON, 1938, of Charlotte, N.C.; Feb. 7, 2006

DELMARA SOLLIS COLEY, 1941, of Aurora, Colo.; Dec. 1, 2006

GERALDINE R. FISHER, 1945, of Pittsburgh, Pa.; Nov. 5, 2006

JEAN DUNCOMBE BROOKS, 1947, of Elgin, Ill.; May 24, 2007

MARY ELIZABETH (“BETTY”) JOHN COX, 1948, of Tuscola, Ill.; Dec. 6, 2005

MARGARET BROOKS LEISERING, 1952, of Lombard, Ill.; June 12, 2007

PRESBYTERIAN-ST. LUKE’S

JEANNETTE UHRIE STRAIT, 1960, of Bourbon, Ind.; Jan. 10, 2007

SUSANNE FACCHINI LILES-KELLY, 1961, of LaGrange, Ill.; May 30, 2007

RUSH

SHARON UNVERFEHRT THIELBAR, MS 1978, of Elmhurst, Ill.; Sept. 2007

CLAUDIA MONAHAN BAKEMAN, MS 1987, of Three Rivers, Mich.; Jan 8, 2007

MARY VIRGINIA “GINNY” CASEY, MS 1979, of Chicago, died Sunday, Aug. 5, 2007. She had been employed at Rush since graduating from Rush College of Nursing with a master’s degree in psychiatric nursing. She was a psychiatric consultation liason nurse, providing supportive therapy to a select group of patients and families on Rush’s surgical and oncology units. She was also on faculty at Rush College of Nursing and served on the executive board of the Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Nurses Alumni Association from 2003 to 2005. Casey was honored as the 2002 Rush College of Nursing Distinguished Alumna.

Write your news below – clip and send to us for our next newsletter.

WHAT’S HAPPENING? ::

Please send your news to alumni@rush.edu or News & Views, c/o Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Nurses Alumni Association, Rush University Medical Center, 1700 West Van Buren Street, Suite 250, Chicago, IL 60612.